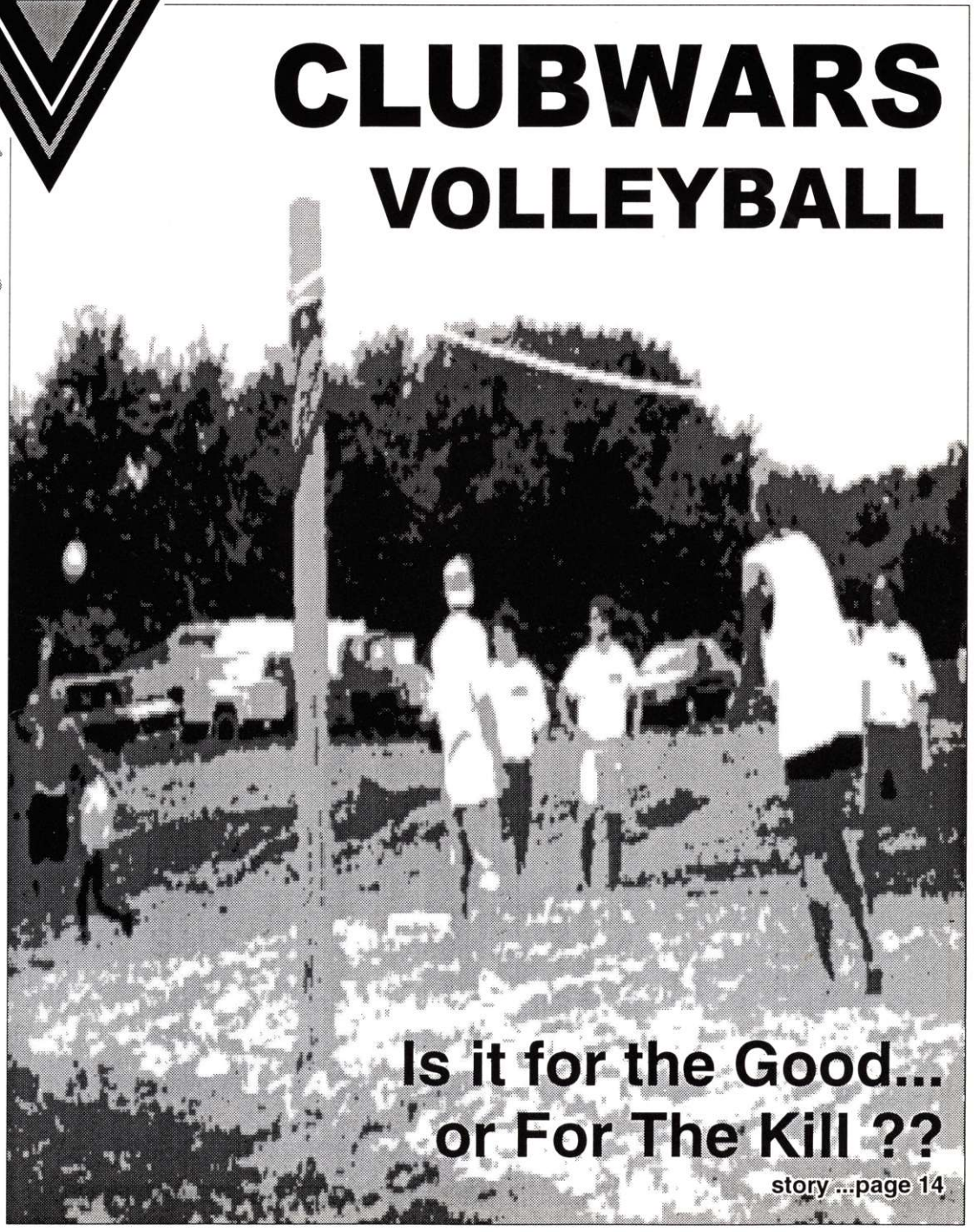
ABOVE GROUND

Vol. 2 Issue 8 August 1995

Your Source for News & Views in and around the Lehigh Valley

CLUBWARS VOLLEYBALL



Is it for the Good... or For The Kill ??

story ...page 14

DIAMONZ

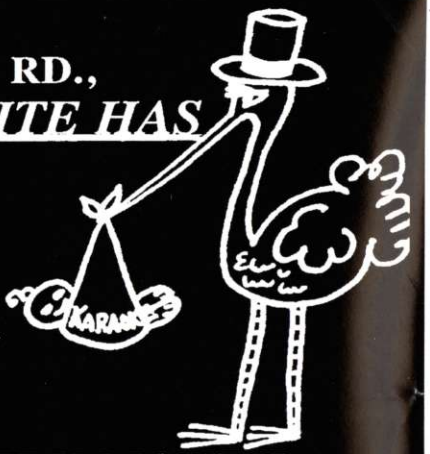
NOW BY POPULAR DEMAND...

Thursdays are even BIGGER at Diamonz!

STARTING AUGUST 3 RD.,

A THIRD KARAOKE NITE HAS BEEN BORN.

9 P.M. - 2 A.M.



NOW WITH NEW DISCS EVERY MONTH.
RELAX IN OUR HUGE & COMFORTABLE LOUNGE.
WING & STEAMER SPECIALS.

And

THE FRIENDLIEST ATMOSPHERE IN THE VALLEY TOO!!!

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ABOVE GROUND
PO Box 1656
Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Editor Speaks!

With Summer just about reaching it's midpoint, we at Above Ground are already busy planning for the months ahead.

We have new regular columns in the works, as well as plans to increase our distribution area. We are still looking for individuals who would like to work, freelance, selling ad space in all areas of our distribution. A few extra hours a week, an outgoing, friendly personality, and a winning smile are all it takes. If you or someone you know is interested, please call me at (610)821-1321.

We are always looking for contributing writers for the magazine. If you have always had something to say, but nowhere to say it, this may be the place for you. The pay stinks, ($0), but the recognition is great. If you are interested send your material to the address listed at bottom left of this page.

Here at AboveGround, we realize that many of you would write us more often if you could do it through E-mail. No more excuse then, OK? Our E-mail address is ABOVEGRND@AOL.COM. We also have plans in the works for other ways you can connect with us each month via your modem. Keep watching for further updates in each issue.

Bloopers are just a fact from time to time when you're printing on a tight deadline. So if any of you showed up at the Stonewall White Party on the Monday before the event, we deeply apologize. Also for those of you who may have seen the BKB ad and didn't know where to go, we apologize for that as well. Sorry we blooped!

PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley was having a couple of the same difficulties last month and asked that I pass along their apology for inadvertently omitting two names in their full page ad last month. The Stonewall and the Monterey Restaurant were missed on the list, and need to be mentioned for all they did in helping to make the 2nd Annual Lehigh Valley PRIDE Festival a huge success.
Both of these businesses along with all of the many other contributors should be commended on the part they played in this year's event. Hats off to you all!

One final note:

The Annual F.A.C.T Summer Games is right around the corner. This year will be the tenth anniversary for this event. Mark your calendars so you don't miss it. Remember the cause is the same and more important than ever.

M.Hemphill, editor

A Look Back

OUT IN NYC

Sunday, June 18, PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley sponsored a bus trip to the Gay Pride Parade in NYC. The bus left from the Stonewall parking lot early in the morning as the eager passengers anticipated the event. Everyone who went said they had a great time and most plan on doing it again next year. As always there was a small group of narrow-minded hecklers, but the day "carried on" without any noticeable problems. Who were those four who missed the bus back though?

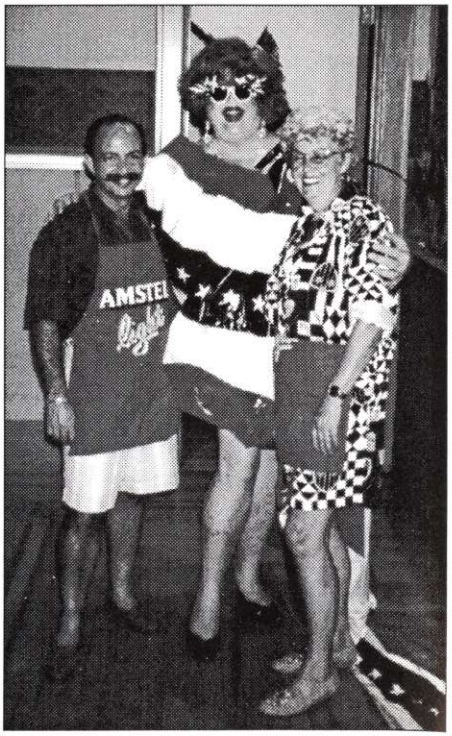
CHAMPAGNE FOR THE VALLEY

On Sunday, July 9, Diamonz was taken by storm by the appearance of Ms Evelyn "Champagne" King. With her energetic stage performances she roused the audience, who sang and danced right along, with hits such as "Love Come Down", "Shame", "I'm In Love," and many more. Afterwards she signed autographs and surprised everyone by joining the packed house in at Sunday Karaoke night.

KB DESIGNS
Handcrafted Jewelry
Fine Jewelry - Custom Design
KIM BACON
908-479-6765 or
1-800-443-5865
261 Rte. 173 E.
Asbury, NJ 08802

RAISING THE ROOF WHILE RAISING THE DEAD

Thursdays in July, the Stonewall presented the latest live sitcoms from Jerry Schmidt. This month featured four seperate shows, and as always featured the highly talented "Enigma Players." The cast picture above was from the second show, "Bride of Frankenbologniastein." All four shows kept the audience in stitches. The other shows included: "Cindy and her Steps", "Wife of Frank...", and "Murder in the Kosher Kitchen."



Dame Betty with volunteer workers at the "Red, White, and Blue Bingo" held at Stonewall for F.A.C.T.'s Family Support Services.

Mondays:
* $5 Drink Special
* DJ 10pm - 2am

Tuesdays:
* $5 Drink Special
* Wing Night
(all-you-can-eat only $2.99)

Wednesdays:
* $5 Drink Special
* $1 Coupon Night
* Music Dance Video Night

The Scarab

Brian (owner)
Keith (manager)

Thursdays:
* $5 Drink Special
* Oldies Night
* DJ 10pm - 2am

Fridays and Saturdays:
* Special Happy Hour
(8-10) $1 off all drinks!
* DJ 10pm - 2am

724 Franklin Street • Reading, PA 19602 • (610) 375-7878

Free Underground Parking across the street ! HOURS: Monday through Saturday 8:00 PM - 2:00 AM

DID YOU DO DORNEY ?

Saturday, July 22 Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom, located on Hamilton Boulevard in Dorneyville, was treated to the arrival of 300 gays and lesbians, and their friends and families.

The event was co-sponsored by Grassroots Queers of Philadelphia and The Lehigh Valley Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The park made discounted tickets available to the organizations as well as providing a pavilion where individuals could bring in their own food and refreshments.

The main purposes of the day was to provide an enjoyable day outside to ride, swim, slide and socialize while creating exposure for the gay and lesbian community. Everyone seemed to have a great time, at least until they got home and discovered those sunburns!

⑥ The Rights of Gay and Lesbian Parents
by Steve Black

We have all heard the sad news of how Sharon Bottoms lost custody of her 3 year old son to her mother. Sharon Bottoms, a lesbian, was denied the right to raise her own child by the Virginia Supreme Court, which cited the "moral climate" of the home and the "social condemnation" the child would face outside it as justification for it's conclusion. The court reached this decision despite more than 30 studies that show that children of gay and lesbian parents possess social skills, sexual identities, and self images that are no different than those raised by heterosexual parents.

This decision sent fear through gay and lesbian parents across the country. The news reinforced their worst fear, losing their children because of their sexual orientation. Could this happen to them? Could it happen in Pennsylvania?

This is not an easy question to answer: however, there are some legal reassurances from PA law. Most importantly, the Virginia Court decision in Sharon Bottoms' case is not legally binding in Pennsylvania. The legal standard in any custody case is "the best interest of the child." Goals of the judge's decision include: preserving a loving relationship with both parents, consistency and stability in the child's life, keeping siblings together, and sometimes the child's wishes. There is no presumption in favor of the mother or father, no matter what age of the child. In PA, a parent is rarely denied all forms of custody. A legal parent may be limited to visitation only where there are serious issues concerning the safety or ability to properly care for the child.

It is extremely unlikely that a court in Pennsylvania would uphold a challenge from a non-parent to legal and physical custody by a natural parent. In this situation, the legal parent has a primary right to custody. A challenge may be brought by a non-parent, such as a grandparent, aunt, etc., but the court will require that person to show "substantial and compelling reasons" why they should be granted custody, This burden increases as the non-parent seeks to spend more time with the child. This means a non-parent will have a higher burden if they are seeking primary physical custody rather than visitation. This burden is extremely high and hard to prove, meaning that gay and lesbian parents should not lose primary physical custody to a non-parent.

Gay and Lesbian parents more often suffer challenges to custody of their children from a former spouse who is also a natural parent of the child. Sexual orientation is relevant to custody decisions; however, it is only one of many factors that are to be considered. In 1985 the Pennsylvania Superior Court held that a father's homosexuality was properly considered in granting only limited partial custody and barring his partner's presence during the visits. The court stated, "Where there is a custody dispute between members of a traditional family environment and one of homosexual composition, the presumption of regularity applies to the traditional relationship and the burden of proving no adverse effect of the homosexual relationship falls on the person advocating it." (Constant A. v. Paul C.A., 344 Pa. Super. 49, 58, 66(1985)). The case has been applied to custody cases decided since.

In 1992 the Superior Court decided another case that improved the standing of gay and lesbian parents in custody cases. This case reversed a Carbon County decision that required a lesbian mother to visit her son only at her parents home and that her lover not be present. The Superior Court stated:

"The solution... is not to penalize [the child] further by restricting his contact with his mother and prohibiting

continued, see Parents ... page 27

Joseph F. Galio, Jr.
1950 - 1995

Thursday, July 13 the Valley lost one of it's most colorful personalities.

"Jo-Jo", as he was better known to most, was a person you were sure to be aware of if you spent any time in local clubs over the past ten years.

Most recently Joe worked at the Stonewall as part of its cleaning staff. He had also worked numerous years as a cook at S.L. Fingers, and Valley Pizza.

Through his many colorful alter-egos, Joe always added a special spice to the flavour of our local community. Those who knew him well, however, were always sure to check out the color of his hair before they called to him by name. It was far more common to see "Liz" out, but occasionally it could be the bold blond, Eve, or the brazen redhead, Scarlet.

Joe was a great lover of music, and was an accomplished organist. He was also sure to be seen at just about every Karaoke night adding his distinctive style to the evening's offerings.

Joe will be sadly missed by many of us throughout the Lehigh Valley, but he has left countless memories for us to hold onto in our hearts forever.

Sunday Brunch

11:30 to 3:30

Every Week !

RESTAURANT Café Mo PIANO BAR

FABULOUS FOOD AT REASONABLE PRICES

Serving dinner 7 nights
5:30 to 11:00

LADIES PARTY

Sunday August 6

Call for further information.

Tinsel Garland

Wednesday August 16

Wednesday August 30

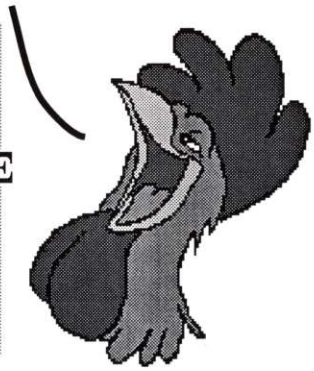
Wednesday Sept. 13

Wednesday Sept. 27

show time 11 PM

COME AND GET IT !!

Join us for our CHICKEN BARBECUE only $9.95 Every Sunday 5 PM



It's all happening at...

CARTWHEEL

of course!

LOUNGE AND DECK OPEN EVERY SUNDAY AT 4PM !

ROUTE 202 **NEW HOPE PA** **215-862-0880**

Coming Events

DATE	TYPE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
AUG 2	***/D	The Comedic Illusions of C.C. RAE	11:30 PM	STONEWALL
	D	TINSEL GARLAND	11 PM	CARTWHEEL
AUG 5	L	MICHAEL FERRERI	10PM-1:30AM	STONEWALL
	L	SHARON ETTINGER	9 PM	DIAMONZ
AUG 6	***	Swimwear/Sportswear Fasion Show	11 PM	STONEWALL
	P	LADIES PARTY	CALL	CARTWHEEL
	P	"Diamonz Al" Birthday Bash	6 PM	DIAMONZ
	M	PRIDE of the L.V. general meeting	4 PM	Grace Cov. Church
AUG 9	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12 AM	STONEWALL
	ST	THE DREAM TEAM male review	11 PM	STONEWALL
AUG 13	ST	HEARTLAND HUNKS male review	11:30 PM	CARTWHEEL
	SP	VOLLEYBALL Round Robin	4 PM	DIAMONZ
	ST	NASTY BOYS male review	10 PM	CANDIDA
AUG 16	D	Maxi Carter & the Girls behind/Wall	12 AM	STONEWALL
	D	TINSEL GARLAND	11 PM	CARTWHEEL
AUG 17	F/S	Emplyee Show to benefit F.A.C.T.	9 PM	DIAMONZ
AUG 18	L	Elaine Paxson w/ Christian Daizey	10PM-2AM	STONEWALL
AUG 19	L	DAMZELS	9 PM	DIAMONZ
AUG 20	F/SP	Clubwars Volleyball (Diamonz-vs-Wall)	4 PM	DIAMONZ
	ST/P	BKB featuring The Dream Team	9 PM	DIAMONZ
	P	Dance Party w/ Mary Glennon	9 PM	CANDIDA
AUG 23	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12 AM	STONEWALL
	ST	THE DREAM TEAM male review	11 PM	CARTWHEEL
AUG 26	L	LOUIE	9 PM	DIAMONZ
AUG 27	F	Beach Blanket Bingo to ben. F.A.C.T.	5-9 PM	STONEWALL
	L	DARLENE BIRDSONG	10 PM	CANDIDA
AUG 30	ST	STEPHEN BEAUDIN exotic dancer	11:30 PM	STONEWALL
	D	TINSEL GARLAND	11 PM	CARTWHEEL
AUG 31	F/S	MS. DIAMONZ CABARET	9 PM	DIAMONZ
SEPT 10	***/F	F.A.C.T 10th Ann. SUMMER GAMES	12 PM	Rainbow Mt.
SEPT 22	***/F	Lesbians & Friends Dance/Social	8-11 PM	Centronia Fire Hall
SEPT 24	F//SO	AIDSWALK '95	12 PM	A-town Rose Grdn.

EVENT TYPE CODES

P - PARTY L - LOUNGE/ LIVE VOCAL ST - STRIP SHOW S - MISC. SHOW SO - SOCIAL EVENT
D - DRAG SHOW F - FUND-RAISER * - SPECIAL EVENT B - BAR PROMO S - SPORTS EVENT**

WEEKLY

SUNDAY
--TEA DANCE / CARTWHEEL / 4-8PM
--BEER BASH / DIAMONZ / 4-6PM
--BEER BASH & BUFFET / CANDIDA / 6-8PM
(starting August 13)
--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
--KARAOKE / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM

MONDAY
--ALL AGE NIGHT / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
--DRAG SEARCH w/ Monica Rey / CARTWHEEL

TUESDAY
--VOLLEYBALL / Lehigh Parkway / 6:30PM
(The Velvet Spikers)
--COUNTRY-WESTERN / CARTWHEEL / 8:30pm
--COUNTRY-WESTERN / STONEWALL / 9-12
--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM
--KARAOKE / SCARAB

WEDNESDAY
--MOVIE NIGHT / SCARAB
--POOL LEAGUE / CANDIDA / 8PM
(starting August 9)
--VIDEO DANCE NIGHT / SCARAB
--POOL LEAGUE / DIAMONZ / 8PM
--$1 COUPON NIGHT / SCARAB

THURSDAY
--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
--SLOW DANCE / DIAMONZ / 9-12
--OLDIES NIGHT / SCARAB
--KARAOKE / CANDIDA / 10PM-2AM

FRIDAY
--BEER BASH / DIAMONZ / 8-10PM
--COUNTRY-WESTERN / DIAMONZ / 8-10:30PM
--DJ REQUEST NIGHT / DIAMONZ / 10:30-2:00

Candida

PRESENTS...

SUPER SUNDAYS

(Starting Aug. 13)

BEER BASH
&
BUFFET
6PM - 8PM
- All the Tap beer you can drink
- Happy Hour prices on cocktails
- Food from Ethel's Southern Kitchen

All Events $8

August 13
NASTY BOYS
Male Review
10:00 PM

August 20
DANCE PARTY
with
Mary Glennon
9:00 PM

August 27
Darlene Birdsong
10:00 PM

Join Candida's Pool League Wednesdays 8PM (starting Aug. 9)

Don't Forget KARAOKE Every Thursday 10 pm - 2 AM with host T.Roth

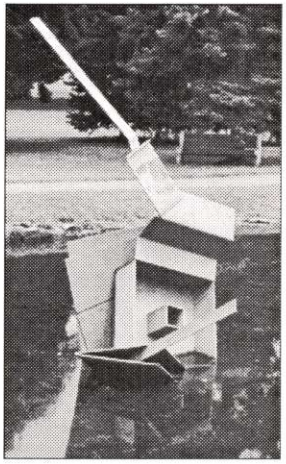
COBALT BLUE DESIGN

247 N. Twelfth Street • Allentown, PA • (610)434-3071

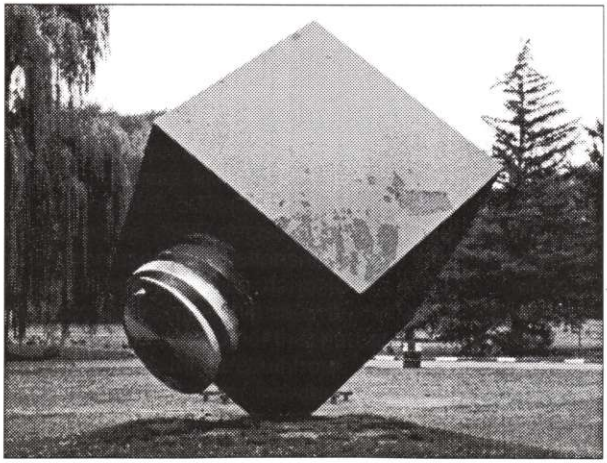
Art

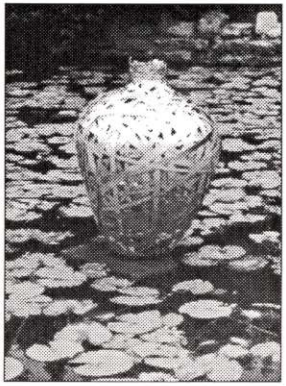
City Shapes

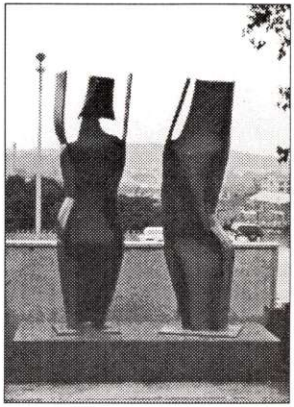
One of the many things that contribute to a city's unique personality is the variety of artwork it displays in open spaces. This month we have chosen to display some of the more prominent sculptures that many Allentown residents see every day, yet probably pay little attention to.



Most of this small sampling shown here can be found in Allentown's city parks. Others are from the downtown mall area as well as from in front of the City Hall. The variety of mediums used for these works is as varied as the emotions they evoke.



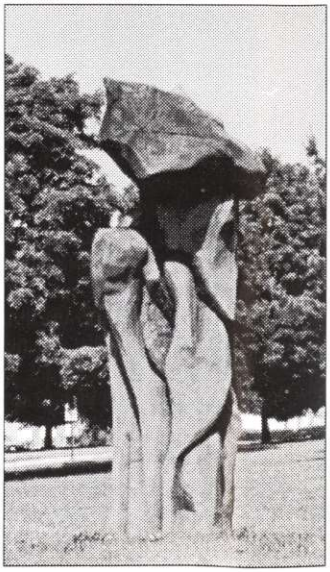




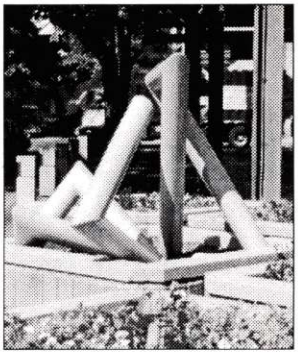
Some such as the "block and screw" form, pictured at bottom left, seem to be favorably accepted by the majority of people who see them, while others tend to produce more mixed feelings. A good example of this is the sculpture pictured to the far, bottom right. If you were to approach this work from the rear, you may first get the impression of a red giant lounging in the grass facing away from you. On closer viewing, however, you can get an impression of what many others see by reading what they have scratched into the paint.

"Get this Junk out of our park'" and "This is not Art!" are just a few of the critical reviews you can see etched into its surface. This really sums up the way most people feel about some of these works ... "You either love them, or hate them!"

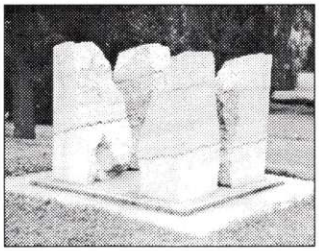
There is a surprising number of uniquely different works placed all over the city of Allentown. It's hard to believe though, if you would ask someone downtown. While catching a photo of

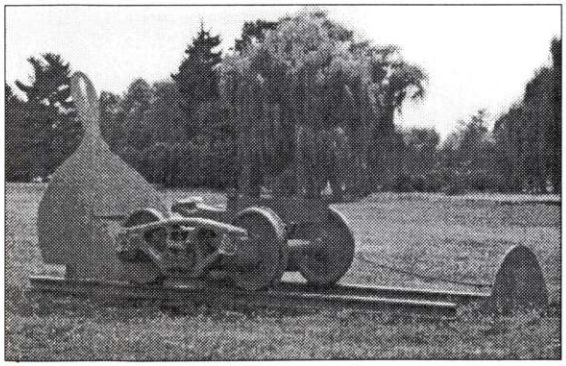


the Blue "I-Beam" figures in front of City Hall, we asked a few people where to find other outdoor sculptures around the city. The most common replies were to the effect of "I think there are a couple down in the park," and "there's that "screw-thing" somewhere on Hamilton Street."



Public art is a gift that belongs to each person of the community. Through it we can see our own unique individuality. Whether you love it, or hate it, you should take the time to know about the outdoor art in your area. When someone from another area visits, it serves as a subtle first impression of the personality of your town. It can project the feel of an old-fashioned quiet community or the vitality of a modern city. Take a drive around town some weekend looking for outdoor sculpture. You may be surprised to see many things you have looked at, yet never noticed.





SHOWINGS

The Blue Ribbon Gallery
78 Ney Alley
New Hope, PA
(215) 862-3622

Featured works of
MICHAEL ISKRA
acrylics - oils - pastels - etchings - nudes

The Moose Lounge
28-30 N. 10th Street
Allentown, PA
(610) 432-0215

An exhibit of broken-colour design art by
Iolsta Hatt
(continuing through mid-August)

Zeitgiest Bei Wassergass
3952 L. Saucon Rd.
Hellertown, PA. 18055
(610) 838-7239 Tues.-Fri. 1-5
Sat & Sun 11-7
Books, Art, Antiques, Jewelry

Where the Big Boys Play !

Wednesday, August 2
The Comedic Illusions of
C.C. RAE

Saturday. August 5
MICHAEL FERRERI
On Piano 10pm - 1:30am

Sunday, August 6 - 11pm
SWIM-WEAR FASHION SHOW
To Benefit L.V.G.L.Task Force

Wednesday, August 9 & 23
TINSEL GARLAND
Midnight in the Disco

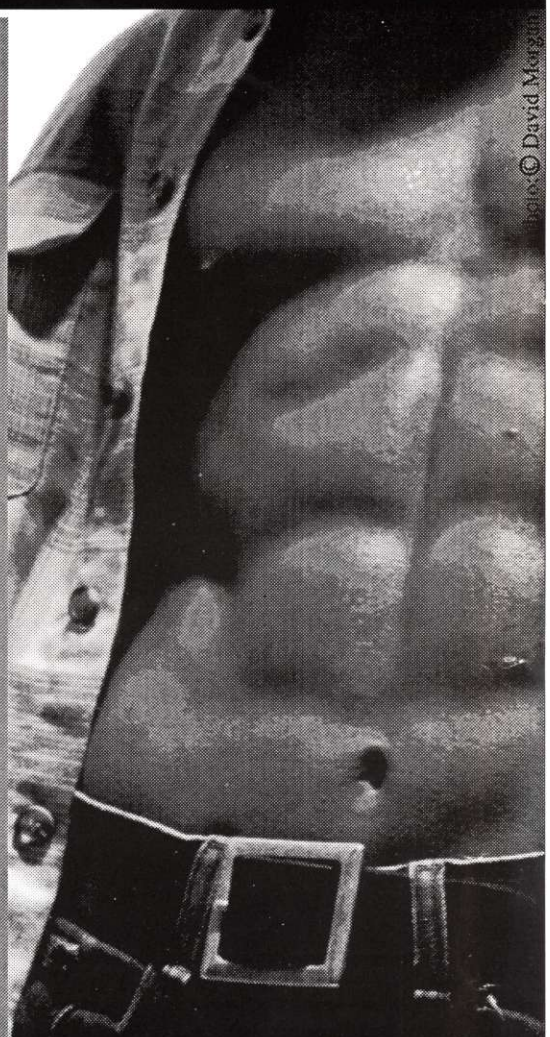
Sunday, August 13
HEARTLAND HUNKS
Male Review

Wednesday, August 16
MAXI CARTER
And the Girls Behind The Wall

Friday, August 18
ELAINE PAXSON
With Christian Daizey

Sunday, August 27 - 5-9pm
BINGO for F.A.C.T.'s
Family Support Services

Wednesday, August 30
the Erotic Dance of
STEPHEN BEAUDIN



STONEWALL

28-30 n. 10th Street, Allentown, PA 18101 (610) 432-0215

Dance
▽
Eat
▽
Play

Standing Out In The Crowd

Did you ever buy a great looking swimsuit, somewhere out of town, only to find that three other people are wearing the same thing when you trot on down to the beach? Unless you always swim in your birthday suit, you have probably run into this more than once. Equally frustrating can be the task of finding a suit that fits your own curves as well as it does your attitude.

Well you don't have to run off to Rio in order to get a suit that no one else is wearing. Ron Serfass, who has had his swim-wear worn by people from all over the world, has recently opened a studio near Palmerton, PA. About five years ago Ron moved to Orlando, Florida, and was working in the housekeeping department at the PARLIAMENT HOUSE, a large all-gay resort. Hanging around the pool after work gave him the opportunity to self-model some of his newly created swim-wear. He soon realized the potential for his business as people eagerly inquired about his one-of-a-kind suits.

In response to family needs, Serfass moved back to nearby, Aquashicola, PA. Since, he has continued producing his suits while setting up his new studio and workshop. Some of his designs are being sold locally through CONDOMS GALORE in Fullerton, GROWNUPS in New Hope, as well as at The LEATHER CLOSET in Orlando. He will soon be distributing to shops in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland and New York.

All of his swim-wear, which is currently predominantly for men, is handmade by himself in his shop. In addition to his pre-made suits, he also custom designs and produces suits for individuals by appointment at his studio. He remarked that people can even wait in his sitting area enjoying television while he prepares their uniquely fitted suit.

Ron is always in search of new models for his swim-wear, and likes to use local people. He will be having a fashion show at the Stonewall in Allentown on Sunday, August 6. In it his current group of models will showcase some of his latest designs. He will also be adding undergarments and workout wear to his collection, all of which will be seen in his catalog coming soon. He is also in the process of having his fashions featured for sale in some of the major mail order catalogues available to our community.

photo: Derek Orchard model: Vincent Doddy

If you would like more information about Ron Serfass swim-wear, please call him at (610)826-8037 or address mail to him at P.O. Box 24, Aquashicola, PA 18012.

DEEP MUSCLE MASSAGE

Shiatsu - Reiki

Certified Massage Therapist
by appointment evenings & weekends

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For Blood or Money!?

by B. Lee

Sunday, July 9, opposing teams from the staffs of DIAMONZ and STONEWALL came together for a heated competition of volleyball on DIAMONZ's home court. The event was declared to be a fund-raiser for the Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force. One has to wonder if the participants of this game had come with thoughts of working together to raise money for a good cause, or simply to "duke it out" as part of an ongoing rivalry. Many people have felt that the old-timer, STONEWALL and the new-comer, DIAMONZ have both been in bitter conflict since the latter opened some two and a half years ago.

Anywhere you go the story is always the same. Whenever a new gay bar opens in town, it brings with it many mixed emotions. For the majority of the community it brings the delight of having another option as to where night-time socializing can take place. For some, however, it can bring n different emotions altogether. Members of the staff at the local establishments often take on a defensive attitude, fearing that this new addition to town could result in lower or no wages for themselves. Individuals from the staff of the new bar, who in many cases are ex-employees from competing or defunct establishments in town, often take on an offensive nature, feeling that in order for their place of work to survive, they will have to defeat the old dogs on the block. And, in some instances there are employees that obtain positions at both locations, and feel like they are often stuck in limbo between opposing forces. Added to this are often many loyal patrons who almost take offense when asked if they have been to the new place yet.

Although this isn't the case for every employee at every establishment, it is more often than not the norm. Here in the Lehigh Valley, persons old enough to remember can attest to this situation occurring countless times. All of these businesses are, in reality, in competition for, what appears to be, the same resources in the

same general area. At some point all bars feel this sense of anxiousness when a new place opens in town. And looking back at who remains from a long list of bars in this area over the past 20 years, it seems they are right in their feelings of insecurity. Consider a list that includes; MUSICAL BAR, RUBE'S, STONEWALL, The SHED, ROSEMARY'S, THE GIN MILL, CANDIDA, THE CLUB, THE JUNCTION, THE 13TH ST. PUB, SILHOUETTE, JEFF'S CITY LINE PUB, and most recently, DIAMONZ. Add to that a few mixed clubs and others places, that eluded my memory of 17 "out" years, and you come up with quite a variety.

Looking at this list, one may be led to assume that our area cannot support very many gay establishments at one time. It would follow then that each bar would have to always be in cut-throat competition with everyone else in order to survive. Those who have stood the test of time, however, would be able to tell you that the initial heated competition involved when a new place opens, is not detrimental to any parties involved. It is in fact this competition that helps keep some establishes around for so long. An establishment that collapses as a result of new competition was destined for their own demise. If the other bars in town have become lazy and assuming, this is just the wake-up call they need to get back to pleasing their patrons.

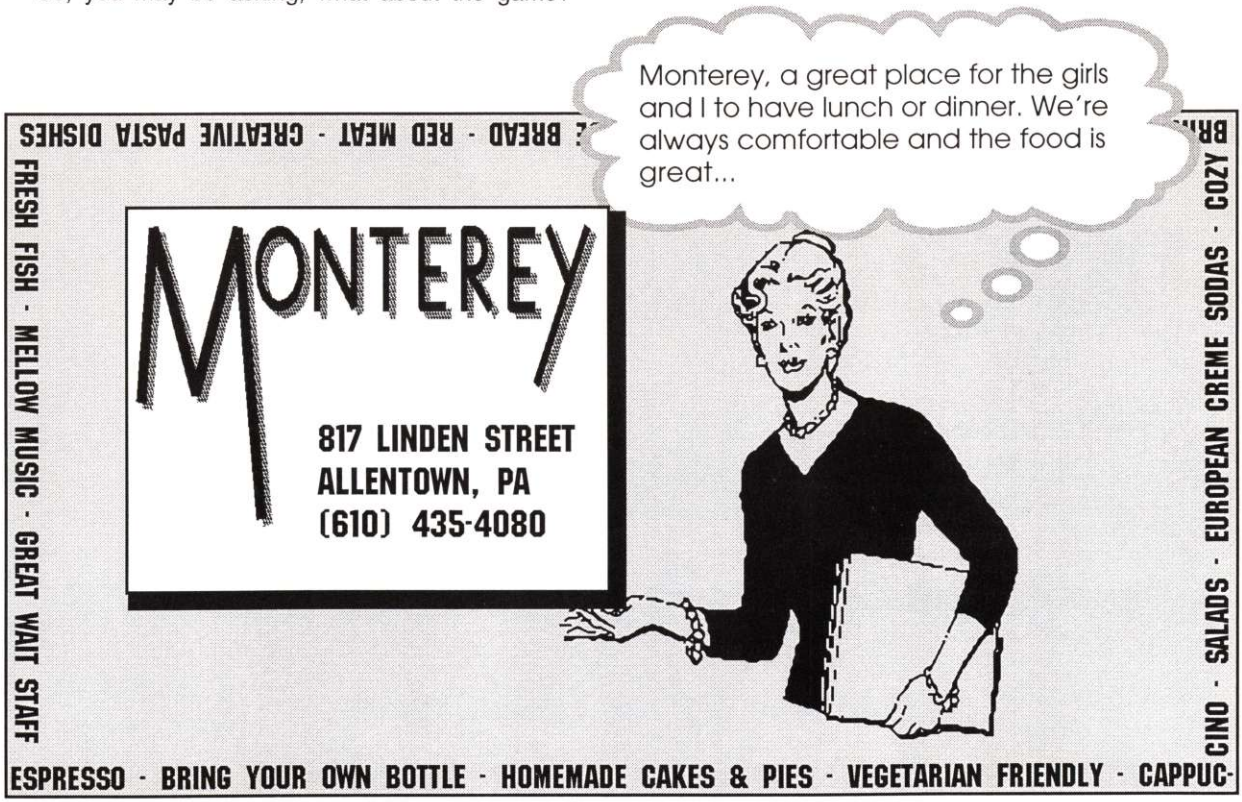
Many factors determine the number of clubs, of the same type, that can co-exist in any area. A small population can only support a limited number of dance clubs, unless they are numerous enough and

grouped closely enough to attract people to drive a longer distance. In any case, each bar that wants to succeed must develop it's own niche. The gay and lesbian community is very diverse in its interests and pleasures. Many gay men can't stand pounding discos and drag shows, and there more than a few lesbians who don't like to shoot pool. The true formula for the longevity of any gay bar is to find your main attraction, and be ever aware of the changes you have to make to remain the best at it.

When you look at who remains from the long list of bars that have given it a go in our area, you can easily see why they are still here. STONEWALL has been considered the Valley's best gay dance club for many years, and has had to make many changes in order to stay there. CANDIDA has remained for 15 years by building the atmosphere of a neighborhood bar where you can still have a great time. And the newcomer, DIAMONZ, will be celebrating its 3rd anniversary in December. Even though this may seem a short run compared to the other two, DIAMONZ has already developed a niche, earning a reputation for bringing loads of national performers to their stage. All three have also proven to be powerhouses when it comes to raising money for the many needs of our community.

So, you may be asking, what about the game? Well, it would appear that both bars playing in this particular competition had only the common good in mind. Players from both teams, some in good shape, some in fair, and some (personally speaking), who should have stayed in bed, assembled by the court after a cocktail in the bar. The best-of-three competition consisted of five players on each side at a time. Having not practiced for the event, and in some cases not having played in years, the STONEWALL team was easy to understand the loss of the first game. But, just as DIAMONZ started cracking down in the second game, the STONEWALL secret weapon arrived... the cheerleaders!! The game quickly took a turn, and the STONEWALL team was able to take relief in not having been shut out. Possibly to the teams own surprise, the STONEWALL took the last game and claimed victory for the day.

continued, see Vollyball ... page 21



Let Your Home Welcome Every Buyer!

By Gail Hoover, Realtor

Follow these tips and with little effort, you can make your home ready to sell more quickly and at a better price.

1. FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE IMPORTANT!

Remember, when a prospect comes to look at your house, the first thing he will see is your home's front door! Be sure that it is fresh and clean. Keep your lawn and landscaping well manicured and trim looking. Rake your yard free of refuse and leaves. If it snowed, be certain that you've removed the ice and snow from walk and steps.

2. WHAT YOU SHOW IS WHAT YOU GET!

Faded walls and worn woodwork will reduce the appeal of your home. Why try to tell a prospect how your home could look...when you can show him how bright and fresh your home could actually be with a reasonable amount of redecoration? A quicker sale at a higher price will result.

3. LET THE SUN SHINE IN!

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT... Open those drapes, curtains and blinds all the way so that prospects can see how bright and cheerful your home is.

4. FIX THAT LEAKY FAUCET

Dripping water discolors sinks and suggests faulty or worn out plumbing. Paint that ceiling stain where the tub upstairs overflowed "last year." Any indications of plumbing problems will cause concern on the behalf of the buyer, even if unwarranted!

5. LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT

Take a few minutes to check that your doors don't stick or have lose knobs on them. Don't forget your windows and cabinet drawers. Get all those minor flaws fixed since they detract from your home's value.

6. SAFETY FIRST AND ALWAYS!

Keep stairs and hallways clear and clean. This will prevent injuries as well as avoiding detracting by distraction.

7. BIG CLOSETS!

Make them look bigger by having them neat and well organized. This will show that your house has ample closet space. Put any out-of-season clothes into storage somewhere else!

8. BATHROOMS SELL HOMES !

Make these rooms sparkle! Repair damaged or discolored caulking in the tubs and showers. Be sure the towels and rugs are bright.

These are some simple, yet very important tips to insure a quick sale at a good price.

Gail Hoover is a Realtor with Patt-White Co., Better Homes & Gardens. For more helpful tips or help in purchasing or selling your home, you can contact her at (610) 439-1491

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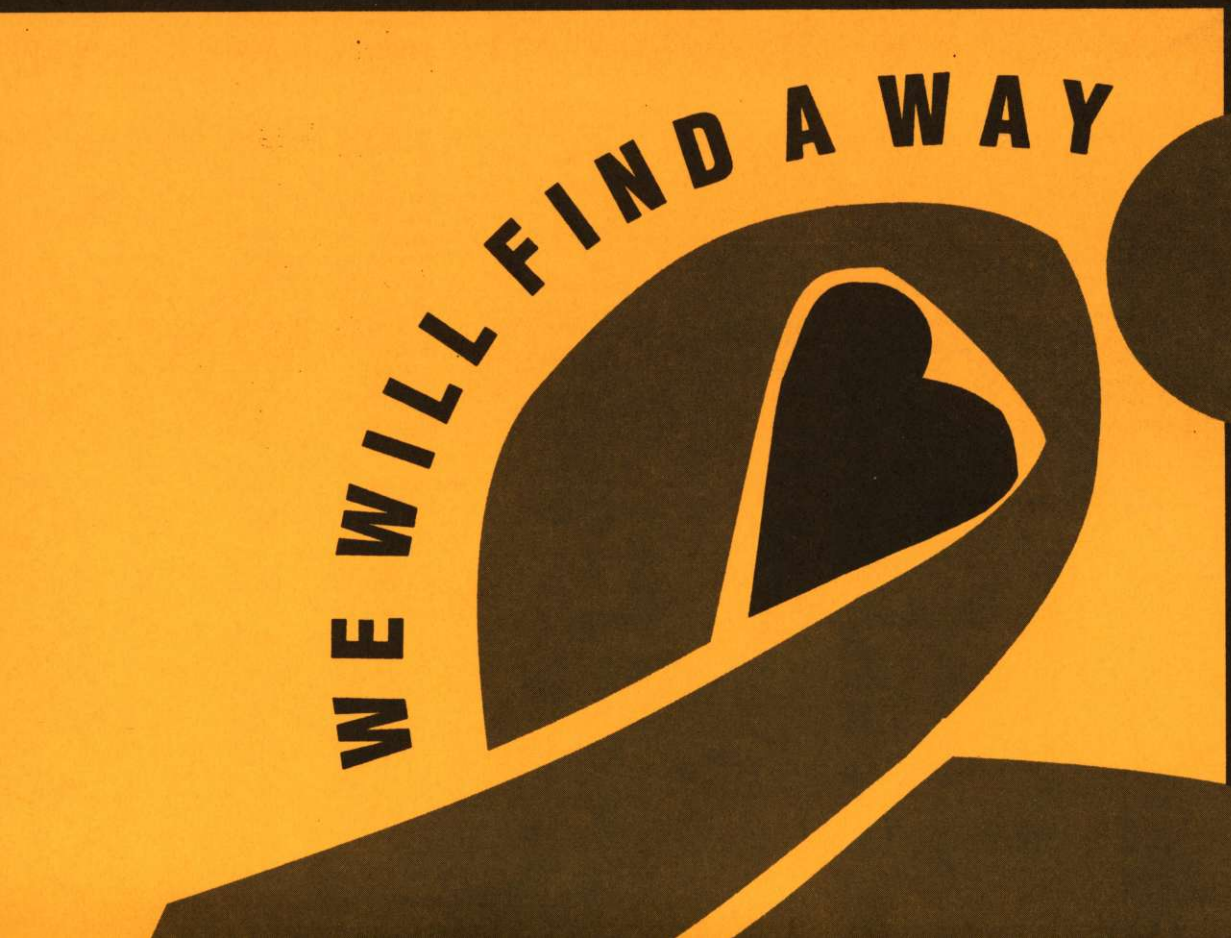

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INSIGHTS

by Jacqueline Marish, M.A.

ADD A "D"

Add a D to anger and you get danger. Anger is dangerous. Anger can be the kind that drives people to violence or it can be the kind that does subtle violence to yourself. This article focuses on the ordinary, everyday sort of annoying incidents that each of us face. If you're the type of person whose immediate reaction to road delays or supermarket lines is to blame somebody, start fuming and dialoguing in your mind or out loud, then your anger may be danger. Your anger is more likely to harm your health than someone whose personality is not tinged with cynicism, anger and aggression. These are not my words but come directly from Dr. Redford Williams and Dr. Virginia Williams, authors of Anger Kills.

Hostility is harmful to ones health and scientific research supports this. Additionally, evidence indicates that hostile people are more likely to be smokers, drink more alcohol and consume more calories. These behaviors obviously put one's health at risk also. Hostile people also damage their relationships because of the way their cynical attitude erupts into anger and aggression.

Conquering hostility takes time, practice and patience; all of which are not routine habits for hostile people. But there are more helpful techniques available. It is possible to modify hostility without losing your dynamic, energetic qualities.

Being cynical means having an attitude of mistrust toward other people's motives. Anger is the emotion which gets triggered by the cynical attitude. Aggression is the behavior used to release the angry emotion.

The body's reaction to the hostile person goes something like this: Nerve cells in the brain trigger the adrenal glands to release large doses of adrenaline and cortisol into the bloodstream; the adrenaline causes the heart to pump faster; blood pressure soars; adrenaline causes the arteries to the muscle to open wide; the extra cortisol in the bloodstream amplifies the effect on the heart and arteries; the heart pumps out an excessive amount of blood; blood pressure increases and damages cells in the lining of one of the coronary arteries; fat cells empty their contents into the bloodstream; the liver converts the fat into cholesterol which builds into a blockage of blood flow.

Drs. Redford and Williams recommend the following psychological strategies for anger reduction : Defeat anger by: 1. reasoning with yourself 2. thought - stopping 3. distraction 4. meditation 5. avoid overstimulation. Improve relationships by: 1. pets 2. listening 3. trusting 4. community service 5. empathy 6. tolerance 7. forgiveness 8. have a confidant. Adopt positive attitudes by: 1. humor 2. religion 3. pretend today is your last.

As a practicing psychotherapist, I see the damage hostility causes to relationships. It's not a matter of a lack of love by the hostile partner, it's a matter of the impact the hostility has on the non-hostile partner. Perhaps health concerns are not enough for the hostile person to become motivated to change. Perhaps the threat or actual experience of losing a partner one loves will be the motivation to reduce one's cynicism, anger and aggression. The danger of the anger may be the death of a relationship, and if it kills one relationship it will kill a second or a third.

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Music Review

by C.Robert Frank

Title: Bette Of Roses
Artist: Bette Midler
Rating: 3 stars

A few months back, I reviewed former Bette backup singer Katey Sagal's first solo outing Well. Quite honestly, I could simply dust off that review, after a few titles and submit it for Bette Of Roses. Nifty time saver, but I opted not to. As I listen, I keep thinking of the dilemma poor Bette and Atlantic Record execs had in compiling this album. That is, how do you market a middle aged woman who modern listeners best remember for her sappy soundtrack crooning, while still having vocally the diva driven rasp of the pill-popping rocker from "The Rose?"

Simple ... take lyrics such as "I didn't want you to see me like this, the light of dawn can be so cruel... how I want to deserve you," and set them to music that is ripe for MOR Music TV. Throw in a Broadway-esque "The Perfect Kiss," and a Springsteen style "The Last Time" (remember when Bruce's arms were as wimpy as his chord changes?), and lay them all together in a thorn-free Bette Of Roses. Nothing on the album will prick you, it's light, fragrant and yearning for BIC's to be swaying in the air.

Title: Post
Artist: Bjork
Rating: 4 stars

Bjork and Toni Childs have always reminded me of one another. Bjork's first solo outing Debut and Toni Childs' latest A Woman's World are two examples of what I call "pop extreme." What I mean by this is that the songs on both of these albums are so avant-garde that they seem a far cry from standard pop. Their hooks, however, are so catchy, it is hard to resist singing along. Now Bjork offers her second album, Post. This time it is more difficult to sing along. Now it is almost as if Bjork is saying: "shut up, sit up, and listen to me!" Listen

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DJ's TOP TEN

DJ : Casey
Bar: SCARAB / Reading

1. **Baby Baby**
   CORONA
2. **Total Eclipse**
   NICKI FRENCH
3. **This Is How We Do It**
   MONTELL JORDAN
4. **Scream**
   MICHAEL JACKSON
5. **Move It To The Rhythm**
   TECHNOTRONIC
6. **Your Loving Arms**
   BILLIE RAY MARTIN
7. **Come And Get Your Love**
   REAL MCCOY
8. **Relax**
   CRYSTAL WATERS
9. **Dim All The Lights**
   LAURA BRANIGAN
10. **You Never Love The Same**
    ROZALLA

DJ : Mike Tolleson
Bar: DIAMONZ / Bethlehem

1. **Bad Girls**
   XAVIER GOLD
2. **Tyler More Mary**
   RAGEOUS PROJECTING
   FRANKLIN FUENTES
3. **Back For Good**
   LIPSTICK
4. **Don't make Me Wait**
   LOVELAND
5. **Love Love Love - Here I Come**
   ROLLO GOES MYSTIC
6. **Officer Where's Your Brother**
   MOREL
7. **Think Of You**
   WHIGFIELD
8. **Gimme All Your Lovin'**
   BROWN & MAZELLE
9. **Passion**
   JON OF THE PLEASED WIMMIN
10. **I Can Feel Desire**
    BAK2BASSIKS

DJ : David Petrilla
Bar: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. **As Long As You're Good To Me**
   JUDY CHEEKS
2. **Plastik Dread**
   C.L. MCSPADDEN
3. **Scream**
   MICHAEL JACKSON
4. **Tremendous Pain**
   YELLO
5. **Better Days Ahead**
   TYRELL CO.
6. **Heart Of Glass**
   BLONDIE
7. **Free To Be**
   RUPAUL
8. **Build It With Love**
   LONDONBEAT
9. **My Love Is For Real**
   PAULA ABDUL
10. **Don't Give Me Your Life**
    ALEX PARTY

we will, because Post is a joy to experience. "Army Of Me" and "Enjoy" are steamrollers. Their percussive arrangements don't embody Bjork's unique voice, they're simply there to keep pressure on the throttle. "Isobel" would not be out of place on a program with Bartock's Concerto For Orchestra. "It's Oh So Quiet" could find its way onto Sinatra's Duet 3. Post may be like wine in that it is an acquired taste, but in the same manner, it is just as intoxicating.

If you would like your club's DJ Top Ten Published in AboveGround, send it, along with DJ name to:
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Video Hot Picks

VJ : MITZI D.
Bar: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. **Funkie Junkie**
   ISAAC HAYES
2. **Love So Strong**
   SECRET LIFE
3. **Heart Of Glass (rmx)**
   BLONDIE
4. **Missing (club mix)**
   EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL
5. **Space Cowboy (rmx)**
   JAMIROOQUAI
6. **Open Your Heart**
   M PEOPLE
7. **Baby Baby**
   CORONA
8. **Scatman**
   SCATMAN JOHN
9. **Close To You**
   FUN FACTORY
10. **Better Days Ahead**
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DJ : Michael De Cero
Bar: CARTWHEEL

1. **As Long As Your Good To Me**
   JUDY CHEEKS
2. **Absolute E-Sensual**
   JAKI GRAHAM
3. **Relax**
   CRYSTAL WATERS
4. **My Love Is For Real**
   PAULA ABDUL
5. **Fallin' In Love**
   LA BOUCHE
6. **You Bring Me Joy**
   MARY J. BLIGE
7. **Scream**
   MICHAEL JACKSON
8. **Cherchez La Femme**
   GLORIA ESTEFAN
9. **God's An astronaut**
   BLUNT FUNKERS
10. **You Never Love The Same**
    ROZALLA

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Danielle Lubene visits Open Space Gallery

by Jamie E. Balliet

The first time I heard Danielle Lubene's voice charging through the speaker of a friends stereo , I forgot what I was talking about. In a room full of strangers and acquaintances and friends , she had the ability to pull me into another dimension of consciousness . And when I asked the timid, passive looking woman sitting next to me who was singing, she smiled with ease and said softly , " that's me . "

Connecting that passionate , enigmatic sound to the body was admittedly difficult. I bought her independent tape ESP AND THE SANDMAN from her that night and played it faithfully for three months , creating my own image of what she could do with these five incredibly provocative , brassy songs on stage . I didn't even get close to the experience . On Saturday , July 15 , Danielle Lubene and her band , a wonderful blend of musicians and singers , performed at Allentown's Open Space Gallery . Not the typical bar venue usually chosen by up and coming alternative singers, this intimate performance space with community artwork covering its brick walls was close to a perfect setting for Lubene's music. Packed with fans from the floor in front of her to the staircase leading down by the front doors, Ms Lubene lead the crowd through a maze of intricate and delicate guitar playing, with just the right blend of rhythm from Ken Bussier and drummer Dave Ferrara, and the right level of harmony from singers Joanne Peters and Kathleen Warren.

From the first forty minute set, Lubene filled the room with sounds of dichotomy - often rough and sensual, internalized and inviting. Even within her stage presence she was a mystery; at times playing the tough, level-headed leader and at others feeding off of the support of her band. She seemed as confident with her electric guitar and edgy vocals on "Post Card (Wish You Were Here)" as she did with the acoustic sensuality of

"ESP and the Sandman."

And then she exploded. The second set opened with an invigorating version of "Last Hangover," an amazing roller coaster ride of energy and persuasion. From this point on the audience was hers, trapped in a musical sound that exists nowhere but in Lubene's vision. Her sound is unique, it's sexy, it's magnetic. It's honest, something that is rarely provided in the music industry. And after she ended her set with a cover of Wanda Jackson's "Mean, Mean, Man" it was hard to let go of that honesty.

So she came back, sat down calmly on a stool, and sang her heart out one more time.

Danielle Lubene's tape ESP And The Sandman is available at the following locations: Toons and Sound Barrier, Allentown and Play It Again, Bethlehem.

To be added to Danielle's mailing list, please send your name and address to: P.O. Box 20382, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0382.

VOLLEYBALL *continued from page 15*

All of the team members, most not spring chickens, did a great job in giving their all, making the game a fierce competition. Along with the teams, other staff members from both bars helped raise over $1,300 for the Task Force. This is quite an accomplishment considering that there was only a very short time between event conception and occurrence. DIAMONZ may have lost the game, but ended up beating out the Wall in raising money; over $750.

And if there was still any bit of unwarranted rivalry between the two staffs, it couldn't be seen on the court or in the bar festivities afterward. Bars that make it around for a while, usually end up being, in a sense, a part of one another, rather than opposing foes. Just as CANDIDA and STONEWALL have developed into mutually respected friends, so to appears the future for DIAMONZ and her "sisters" in the Valley.

Both bars will come together again along with other teams for another round of "CLUB-WARS VOLLEYBALL" on Sunday, August 20 starting at 4 PM. If you are interested in more information about the event you can contact the Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force at (610) 525-1551. And don't forget to sponsor the players and make sure to be there to help cheer them on!

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Horrorscoops

by Evil Esther

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb.18

Looks like another Month of work drudgery! Don't get t up-tight about it, toward month's end you schedule will be loosening up. Better take advantage of what you will have left of the Summer, does'nt look good for Fall.

PISCES
Feb.19-March 20

Long lazy days on the beach, doesn't that sound good? Well, don't get your hopes up. That scandalous affair you had last season is going to come to the surface while you're on holiday. I guess the dog house isn't the worst place to relax!

ARIES
March 21-April 19

The way you look in that bikini bathing suit could bring tears to the eye. Those aren't tears of joy, get real! The only one that is looking at you lustfully is that face in the mirror. It really is time you got back on that treadmill. There's still time.

TAURUS
April 20-May 20

My ma taught me that if you don't have anything good to say, to keep quiet. For once I'm gonna listen. See Ya!

GEMINI
May 21-June 20

Looks like romance is all you know this month. It's possible that a new love interest is "the one" for you. Be careful that you don't loose sight of your priorities, calling off from work to often will be noticed, and action could be taken.

CANCER
June 21-July 22

Early part of the month looks good for you. Love, work, and family present no problems. Try to enjoy it and hang on to it a while, a tenuous situation towards month's end will only become a disaster if you let it. Watch out for Libra.

LEO
July 23-Aug.22

All work and no play... well you know the rest. You are going to have t put extra effort towards getting away from those extra hours this month. The other half is just about at the boiling point. Buy flowers and come home early!

VIRGO
Aug.23-Sept.22

So what is it they say about Virgos being meticulous about everything?! Looks like you will be better known for being absent minded and laid back this month. Possibly you are just experiencing a little self-caused burnout. Take a pill!

LIBRA
Sept.23-Oct.22

Strangers in the night, exchanging glances... Yeah, that's all you'll be exchanging if you know what's good for you. That pick-up you are thinking about may end you up with more problems and a lot of missing jewelry. Beware!

SCORPIO
Oct.23-Nov.21

Looks like a pretty uneventful month for you in August. No new love, no new friends, no new purchases. Don't let it get you to stir-crazy, things will pick up towards month's end. Look at it this way, at least no new problems.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov.22-Dec.21

Things aren't going so good lately at the job , heh? Well don't be too quick to give it up, or you may end up unemployed a lot longer than you think. It will get better if you just put a little more effort into it.

CAPRICORN
Dec.22-Jan.19

Separate vacations may be the answer for some relationships, but you may want to reconsider. There is a god chance that you could go astray, and it will be no accident when the other picks up the phone in your room.

*Horrorscoops are published for entertainment purposes only. Anyone running their life based on them is obviously in need of good therapy!! Life is short. Have a little Fun!!

Parents *... continued from page 6*

him from spending time with her and [her lover] in her home. The standard 'best interest of the child' requires us to consider the full panoply of a child's physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Of primary importance to the child's well-being is the child's full and realistic knowledge of his parents, except where it can be shown that exposure to the parent is harmful to the child..."

"In [the child's] case, one of life's realities is that one of his parents is a homosexual. In the absence of evidence that the homosexuality in some way harms the boy, limiting [the child's] relationship with that parent fails to permit him to confront his life situation." (Blew v. Verta, 420 Pa. Super. 528, 537, (1992)).

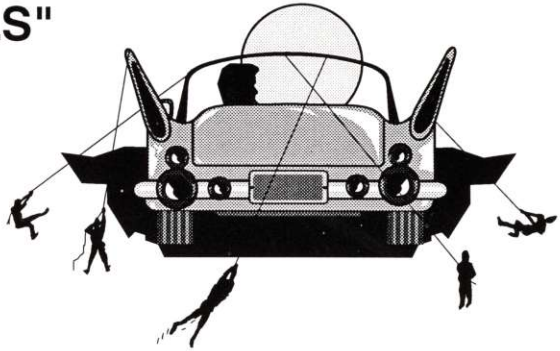
The court narrowed the 1985 decision to mean that, "where a parent's homosexual relationship (or, in fact, any non-marital relationship) cause harm to a child in the parent's custody, the relationship may be the basis for restricting or limiting the custody of that parent." The court stressed that the harm must result from "the homosexual relationship itself" not "other individuals reaction to ... the relationship." The court also recognized psychological studies that show "lesbianism does not correlate negatively with the ability to raise a healthy, normal child." (Blew v. Verta, 420 Pa. Super. 528, 537, 538, 539 (1992)).

The 1992 case shifted the burden of proof in custody cases involving sexual orientation. The 1985 case required the gay or lesbian parent to show that his or her homosexuality would have no negative impact on the child. Under the 1992 case, the "straight" parent now bears the burden of proving that the gay or lesbian parent's relationship will negatively affect the child. By allowing psychological studies as evidence and psychiatrists to testify as expert witnesses this will be difficult to prove.

When confronted by the threat of a custody challenge, gay and lesbian parents should consult an attorney to review the facts of their particular case. For more information, an organization that offers support for gay and lesbian parents in custody cases is the Women's Law Project (215) 928-9801.

Steve Black is a openly gay attorney practicing in Bethlehem and also serves as vice chair of the PA League of Gay and Lesbian Voters.

28 "GAYLUVER'S TRAVELS"
by Beau Hunter



When Beau was just a babe, his baby-sitters watched a show about a highway called "Route 66." The only thing I can remember is a lyric from a song something like, "you can get your kicks on Route 66." Well, Beau's Route 66 is Interstate 81. This northeast by southwest highway is like a weather front that divides warm air from cool air. People along Route 81, as a group, seem friendlier and more relaxed than the people east of this road. They live just far enough from major east coast cities to be less affected by the strains of urban life.

Since the Lehigh valley isn't on Route 81, we must travel north to Wilkes-Barre or west to Harrisburg to explore this road. Don't worry about that gap in between, there's not much there, at least of gay interest. Now where to start? Oh, let's go north first because it's up on the map and Beau likes up.

Wilkes-Barre use to be hard to get into, but RUMORS, 315 Fox Ridge Plaza, is on the outskirts, in the area of the racetrack. Downtown is more accessible now with the completion of new roads and SELECTIONS, 45 Public Square, is the place to be, or be seen. Several years ago, Beau was taken to VAUDVILLA, 465 Main St., Kingston, for a bite to eat. The food was good and I had a nice time, but if you're attractive, the older queens will make you their feast at VAUDVILLA.

Beau has friends in Wilkes-Barre so I rarely go to the bars. I also don't find Wilkes-Barre interesting enough to spend the day. The after-work scene at the clubs was never much either. Maybe things have changed. Guess I'll go back soon.

Oh, let's jump around and head to Harrisburg. If Allentown and Wilkes-Barre are the step-sisters of Philadelphia, the Harrisburg is most likely a Cinderella, whose beauty was ignored because she had to scrub those nasty floors at the disabled nuclear power plant. Now her prince, the gay friendly Mayor Steven, has put the glass slipper back on Cinderella and declared her a princess. He has cleaned up the main halls of the palace for her and has reluctantly offered to buy her a baseball team. Why, Beau would be stuffing his foot in the glass slipper if it got him a baseball team!

Happy hour is worth doing in Harrisburg. The NEPTUNE, 268 North Street, gets lively as early as 4pm when State workers get off (of work, that is!) After all, the NEPTUNE is practically at the bottom of the state capitol building's steps. So, if you get to town early, go see the capitol building. It is beautiful. You can also lunch at Strawberry Square. The food court there is a people watching / cruising delight. The only distraction was a water sculpture that piddled. It sounded like someone taking a long pee and makes Beau have to go.

Other clubs in Harrisburg have come and gone, but there always seems to be a few in walking distance of the NEPTUNE, making it fun to go from club to club and giving it more of a Philly feel than Allentown. Open nearby is STALLIONS, 706 N. Third Street, but you enter in the rear. STALLIONS is the big club and has recently been remodeled. What once looked like a barnyard dance hall is now very stylish. Beau especially likes the bright dance floor lights. Why have all those hot dancers out there if you can't see them? This is fun, liking cruising the boardwalk. If only some other clubs would take notice of this.

The STRAWBERRY, 704 North Third Street, is between the other bars and attracts a different crowd. It replaces the old STRAWBERRY which burned. The old location was roomier, but a little far to walk from the main clubs. Now it's a regular pea in the pod.

The waterfront, museums, architecture, restaurants and shopping all make for an interesting day, or more, in downtown Harrisburg. It's only an hour and a half away, so go soon if you haven't.

Okay, back to the north. Above Wilkes-Barre is Scranton. Until recently, there wasn't much to do in downtown Scranton. Now that has changed. A

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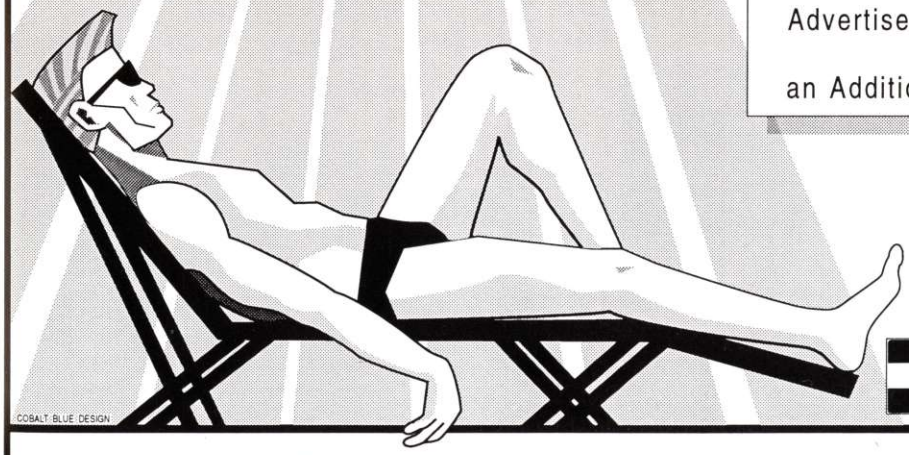

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Beau ...continued from page 28

downtown mall, Steamtown, and more to come, are revitalizing Scranton. So, if you go, just wander over to the SILHOUETTE, 523 Linden Street. It's a small neighborhood type of place that Beau was only in once, but it was friendly. There was another place downtown advertised as gay, but it was straight the last time I stopped in. Go to SILHOUETTE first and get the local scoop from them. Tell them Beau sent you.

Beau romanticizes about Scranton too much. He's been involved over the years with three men from Scranton. How can a person think too highly of a town with junkyards along the major roads around it? And yet, when I'm there, I'm grateful and in awe of the city that produced these three wonderful men.

North of Scranton near the New York State line, but still in Pennsylvania, is a gay male campground called HILLSIDE, exit 66 off I-81. Extremely popular, you need to call first especially about weekend reservations. There's a pool and dance hall and some meals are available and affordable. It is clothing optional, so go work on that all over tan. Beau, however, is a little uneasy with naked guys who practically have a small jewelry store pierced into their groin areas. How embarrassing at the airport when he forgets and can't get through the metal detectors for you first tropical vacation together. (Attendant: "Please put all your metal in the basket" Lover: "Oh, he has already!") All kidding aside, everyone who has gone to HILLSIDE says they had a great time.

There's also ONEIDA campground, exit 67 off I-81. Beau hasn't been there yet, so I'll just call it to your attention for now.

Beau hasn't run out of stories, but I've run out of room. I'll get back on Route 81 again. Meanwhile, maybe I can get some catchy lyrics like the theme to Route 66. Something like, "You can have great fun traveling along I-81!"

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I remember when I was the singer,
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And all that's taken over
And all that has ever been
seems to melt when I feel what I've felt
just imagining me as you within.

--for Lari Shox, taken from us August 1,
some ten years ago.

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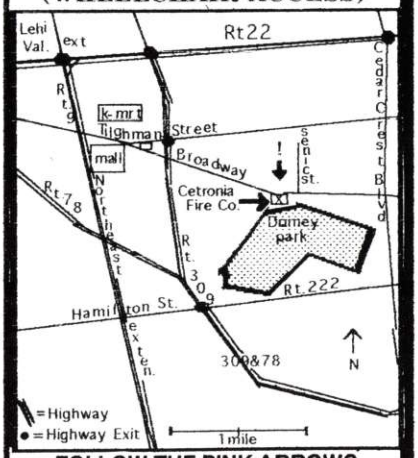

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